

The Occidental Restaurant
(Owen House)
1413 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-382

HABS,
DC,
WASH,
242-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. DC-382

THE OCCIDENTAL RESTAURANT

Location:

1413 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Lot 801, Square 225
North side of Pennsylvania Avenue
Between 14th and 15th Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 2006

HABS,
DC,
WASH,
242-

Present Owner:

The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

Present Occupant
and Use:

The two-story Occidental Restaurant functions aesthetically with the Occidental Hotel, (DC-325), continuing the fenestration and rustication of the hotel. Built before 1870, as the Owen House, a five story rooming house, it may have received the present facade in 1914 when the top three floors were removed. The street facade of white-glazed terra-cotta has an arched central entry within a trabeated ground floor. The rusticated second floor features tall square-headed openings with French doors and iron railings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1870 (based on physical examination and stylistic analysis).
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Owen House was originally built for Samuel Owen. Ownership was transferred to Kate Dean Owen in 1901. The title changes following were:

Date	Liber	Folio	Grantor	Grantee
6/1/07	3084	258	Charles H. Bauman	Kate Dean Owen
2/17/13	3615	62	Kate Dean Owen	Allen McLane Abert
2/27/13	3615	69	Allen McLane Abert	Henry H. Hazen
2/11/16	3862	339	Henry H. Hazen	John F. Wilkins
6/8/16	3900	732	John F. Wilkins	Harry A. Kite
11/23/16	3938	325	Harry A. Kite	John D. O'Donnor

3/8/48	8697	157	Christine Kathryn Anglin	Raphael S. Harrington
3/8/48	8647	159	Raphael S. Harrington	Christine K. Anglin
6/25/78	--*	--*	K.C. Anglin	Oliver T. Carr, Jr.
-/-/79	--*	--*	Oliver T. Carr, Jr.	PADC

*as yet, not assigned liber or folio

4. Tenant information: When the Owen House was purchased in 1913 by Henry Hazen, an 18 year lease was signed with Gustav Buccholz who had, one year earlier, signed a twenty-year lease with Henry Willard for the lower floors of the Occidental Hotel. Buccholz and his family purchased the building in 1922, and remained in the restaurant until Buccholz's death in 1946. In 1947 the Restaurant was leased to the Occidental Restaurant/Hotel, Inc. simultaneously with the lower floor of the Occidental Hotel. From this point on, the two spaces were leased as one. The Occidental Restaurant/Hotel, Inc., remained in the building until just before its sale in 1978.
5. Alterations and additions: The original Owen House was a five story hotel. The three-bay street facade features four identical upper stories with simple trabeated windows set into a plain facade. A denticulated cornice with brackets at either end capped the facade. The storefront featured a central entrance flanked by multi-paned show windows. The current configuration (and apparently the facade) of the Occidental Restaurant dates from 1914, when the top three stories were dismantled (permit #2093, 11/9/14). The work was done by the Davis Construction Company.

C. Bibliography:

a. Primary sources:

District of Columbia Building Permits. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia Deed Records. Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

District of Columbia Tax and Assessment Records, 1850-1879. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

b. Secondary sources:

All of the following are available at the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King, District of Columbia Public Library.

Baist Real Estate Atlas Collection.

District of Columbia City Directories, 1865-1979.

District of Columbia General Assessment Records.

Prepared by: Anderson, Notter/Mariani
Historic Preservation
Consultants for PADC

Wendy Hunter
Architect for PADC
December 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The two-story Occidental Restaurant is a brick building with a terra-cotta Beaux-Arts facade. The three-bay street facade, of white-glazed terra-cotta, has an arched central entry within a trabeated ground floor. The rusticated second floor features tall square-headed openings with French doors and iron railings. Signs and a large metal awning have been added to the facade.
2. Condition of fabric: Both the interior and exterior elements suffer from neglect. Structural elements are in good condition.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two-story structure is rectangular in shape, approximately 29' wide and 114' deep. It more than fully occupies its irregular lot, as its northeast corner is built on the public alley that abutts its west, north and part of its east facade.
2. Foundations: Concrete.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The Pennsylvania Avenue facade (south) is faced in matte, white-glazed terra-cotta. At the street level, four pilasters, which support a smooth entablature, divide a central arched entry from flanking show windows. A metal awning now spans these openings. Above the frieze is a metal cornice-like element which bears the word "OCCIDENTAL". Another sign, saying, "RESTAURANT" has been super-imposed on the fascia. The second floor features unusual Gibbs surrounds, in which the system of horizontal rustication is super-imposed on the molded surrounds of the tall, square-headed window openings. A neon sign spelling "OCCIDENTAL" tops the full width of the facade.
4. Structural system and framing: Brick loadbearing with wood floor joists.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is one main entrance on the south elevation, centered between two show windows. It is of steel and glass.
- b. Windows: Two show windows flank the main entrance. Above, are three wood-framed "French door" windows with a transom lite and ornate black wrought-iron railing in the lower part of the opening.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape: Flat.
- b. Cornice: A simple pressed metal cornice caps the second floor facade.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The open basement has a packed dirt floor and structural piers in a regular grid.
- b. First floor: There are two major spaces on the first floor: a large open dining room and a kitchen. The dining room is separated from the kitchen by a wall with doors flanking the center opening.

2. Stairways: Stairs to the cellar are wood with metal railing. There is no ornamentation on either these or on the cement stairs to the alley.

3. Flooring: A wood floor covers both the dining room and the kitchen.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls of the dining room are wood paneled. The ceiling is plaster with soffited wood beams in a rectangular grid.

5. Openings:

- a. Doors: Two service doors against the east and west walls are paneled wood.
- b. Windows: The show windows at the facade are of steel and glass.

6. Decorative features: There is a varnished wood bar along the west wall and a free-standing service mantel with Deco ornamentation used possibly as a small service area.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: This building stands on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, facing south. When originally built, the Owen House was one of several medium sized commercial buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue. The north and south sides of the Avenue held larger four and five story buildings before the Commerce Building was built in 1932 (the first of the Federal Buildings). The Occidental Restaurant stands dwarfed by the Willard and Occidental Hotels, and uncomplemented on the west by a parking garage. Also in Square 225 are the Washington Hotel, (northwest of the Occidental Restaurant), and another parking structure to the north fronting F. Street. South of the Restaurant is now the new Pershing Park, currently underconstruction.

Prepared by: Anderson, Notter/Mariani
Historic Preservation
Consultants for PADC

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the completion of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Plan. John A. Burns, AIA, and Emily J. Harris were the HABS project coordinators. The records were prepared under the general supervision of Jeffrey S. Wolf, Architect with PADC. Historic data was compiled by PADC consultants in historic preservation, Anderson Notter/Mariani, and expanded by Wendy Hunter, Architect with PADC. Photographs were taken by Jeffrey S. Wolf in December 1979. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Robert S. Lange, an architectural historian in the HABS office, in June 1980.